



Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Executive Order: 03-04
City-wide Aquatic Ecology Strategy

This Executive Order directs City departments with responsibilities for and connections to water quality and aquatic habitat issues to develop a shared, broad-based strategy to better "protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitat within the City." The Executive Order directs City departments to develop an action plan (with early, short term and longer term strategies and commitments) within 20 weeks and then establish a longer-term framework for departmental coordination, stakeholder involvement and monitoring both environmental and departmental progress in this area.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is fortunate have an amazing array of aquatic resources (extensive shoreline areas, lakes, neighborhood creeks and wetlands, the Duwamish River and Puget Sound); and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's aquatic resources provide important and highly valued recreational (e.g. swimming, walking, diving), aesthetic (e.g. open space, views), and economic/consumptive (e.g. shipping, fishing, shellfish harvesting) benefits to Seattle residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, many species of fish and wildlife, including Puget Sound Chinook salmon (which has been listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act) use and depend upon good water quality, sediment quality, and aquatic habitat conditions within the City; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of in-city water quality and aquatic habitat conditions "builds healthy ecologic communities" for people and for fish and wildlife and is an important public concern and a City purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has plans, policies, and adopted regulations addressing water quality and aquatic habitat and has undertaken various projects and programs meeting State and Federal regulations and public interests in order to help protect and enhance both water quality and aquatic habitat inside the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is facing emerging and more stringent State and Federal regulations and requirements (e.g. TMDL, NPDES, Duwamish Superfund, Lake Union

sediment remediation) to improve water quality and/or sediment standards in its major creeks, lakes and waterways; and

WHEREAS, residents of Seattle believe in the protection of and restoration of water quality and aquatic habitat in Puget Sound, the Duwamish, City creeks and lakes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Drainage Plan, the Environmental Critical Areas Ordinance, the Shoreline Master Program, and the Urban Blueprint for Habitat Protection and Restoration (to name a few) are foundational pieces of the City's water quality and aquatic habitat efforts that need to be seamlessly woven together into a broader strategy that sets City-wide priorities, addresses critical gaps and minimizes overlaps; and

WHEREAS, the direct (and indirect) efforts of City Departments to protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitat are dispersed and have limited coordination; and

WHEREAS, achieving significant improvements in water quality and aquatic habitat inside the City will require a City-wide strategy that is based on sound science, informed by community values, and well coordinated across multiple departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREGORY J. NICKELS, Seattle Mayor do order that the Departments of Seattle Public Utilities; Parks and Recreation; Design, Planning and Development; Transportation; City Light; Fleets and Facilities; Finance; Neighborhoods, and the Offices of Economic Development; Sustainability and Environment; Planning and Management, and Intergovernmental Relations, work strategically and cohesively over the next 20 weeks to develop a shared action plan and commitments that will achieve the following water quality and aquatic habitat outcomes:

Collectively focus the City's efforts towards achieving what is best for water quality and aquatic habitats inside the City based on sound science and informed by community values (recognizing that these actions may straddle the boundaries and roles of individual departments);

- Streamline and coordinate city policies, regulations and enforcement and address critical gaps in this area;
- Establish City-wide priorities and a shared framework/criteria for project, property, program related investments and best management practices;
- Provide incentives for and inspire the private citizens and businesses towards responsible stewardship, protection and restoration of our aquatic areas; and
- Fully explore methods and mechanisms to leverage the City's funding of these activities.

FURTHERMORE, the City's action plan will identify a full menu of early actions, short term (2005-06) and longer term strategies that Departments will commit to and then meet quarterly to track progress.

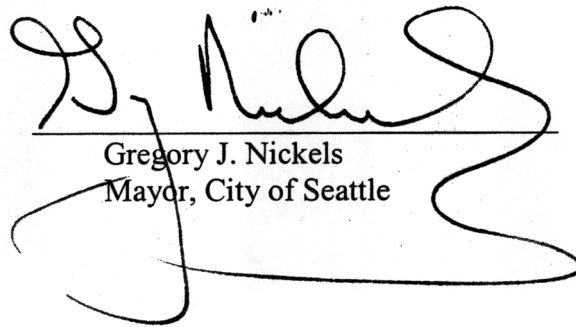
FURTHERMORE, the City will develop a framework for Departments to work together on these issues, leveraging financial and human resources and brokering agreements to execute.

FURTHERMORE, the City will create a mechanism to give community stakeholders a real voice in helping setting priorities for water quality and aquatic habitat restoration.

FURTHERMORE, the City will develop a report card and mechanism(s) to monitor departmental and environmental progress towards its water quality and aquatic habitat goals.

Inquiries regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Danielle Purnell at 233-7246.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2004



Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor, City of Seattle